

James Jackson to Andrew Jackson, May 28, 1821, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JAMES JACKSON TO JACKSON.

Forks of Cypress, 1 May 28, 1821.

1 Near Huntsville, Ala. Jackson owned a plantation in the neighborhood, from which he had received no profits. He was trying to sell it. James Jackson, formerly of Nashville, was acting as his agent. Brigadier-General Coffee had bought land there and was living on it.

Dear Genl. I expected ere this to have been on my road to Pensacola, but found I risked too much by so doing, both on my own acct. and that of my friends. Mr. Crawford has not yet forwarded his instructions under the Law giveing relief to the Purchasers of publick Lands. The arrangement of that business is of most importance to me. I might be too long detained If I went from home, By going in October would have nothing to hurry me. I have sent a power to Doctor Bronaugh to act for me, from his friendship and ability, have no doubt he will do as well for me as I could do for myself. The Genl. and myself have agreed on terms with Genl. Brahan for your Plantation, which are contingent, on his short[!]y being able to arrange for the payments. The Genl. goes shortly to Huntsville when the matter will be finaly understood. the Terms are much below what we intended to take, but after maturely considering your views and great anxiety to get cleer of any obligations to pay money, We concluded it would be more satisfactory to you. In addition there seems a general disposition not to pay for Lands bought at high prices, In consiquence, Certificates can be bought for one half payable in Tennessee money. The bargain with Genl. Brahan is Cost and one thousand dollars for improvements, the Gin reserved, one third on taking

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possession the balance in one and two years thereafter in good money. In this transaction have looked as much to your feelings as your interest.

James Hanna brought home one of your fellows, a very fine looking fellow and the only one he brought. The other he left authority with a friend to sell as he run who He expected would get something near his value. It appears this is to be an unfortunate business throwout for your fine Mare is dead, she brought him to Cypress very well and in a day or two after set out for Tennessee and led him there, but at Granny Whites old place she was taken unwell. He remained all night and next day got to Nashville where He was aided by shute, Hardin and others in endeavouring to cure her, but without success. he was recommended to a grat Farryor, who said she had been improperly Treated, for her Complaint was a Chest Cholick and that she in all probability would not recover, which proved but too true.

I won the race at Huntsville, the Grey had great superiority of heels, He took the Track and kept it, the Sir Archy is rather the best game Horse, but the grey was quite too fat. Campbell was out but did not ride, to please other[s] I permitted a much wors rider and heavyor Boy to ride. Camp lost upwards of \$4000 and offered to bet me \$6000 in Land Certificates, but I had too many Children for such dashing. The Race is made to be run again in October, I would not take any part being tired of my Company. I have lately been told Camp says his Virginia rider rode Jocky and that he will be sure of his race.

I fear Wm. Crawford will not make you a good Crop. Genl. Coffee and myself were at your Plantation a few days since, did not find things in that order we could have wished. The stand of Cotton generally is not good, most people had to replant, some of mine is good, some middleing and some bad, I have an excellent stand at Limestone, I in part blame the foul state of my Land here for the want of a good stand.

Mr. James G Birney² of Madison County, who is a very honourable clever fellow has been looking at the Land west of Cypress and was much pleased with your place, want

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of funds only, prevented him from purchaseing. He proposed takeing half the Land and to put on 20 Hands and you and He to work it jointly, He to live on the place and superintend and draw in proportion to the number of hands each had and either to put on as many as He chose, He to be furnished with his meat and Corn for his attention. This is the outline of his proposition, saying if it met your approbation, there would be no dificulty in details. He the present year made 37,000 lb of Baled Cotton with his 20 Hands, which is a recommendation as a planter. Doctor Bronaugh is acquainted with Mr. Birney and you and myself played whist with him and a Mr. Davis at Huntsville one evening while the Legislature sat there. From your recent disagreeable experiment in a Partnership, did not encourage the project, but promised to write you on the subject, If the sale to Brahan is not carryed into effect, and no offer from any other person, what would you think of Mr. Birneys proposition.

2 Afterwards known as a leading opponent to slavery; candidate of the Liberty Party for the presidency in 1840 and 1844.

There is one thing certin to make good Crops you must have a good overseer, which I expect would be preferable to a partner, I shall hope soon to hear from you and to have the pleasure of seeing you at Pensacola in October next. Will you have the goodness, if necessary, to give Doctor Bronaugh your advice as regards my business. Mrs. Jackson joins me in best wishes to you and Mrs. Jackson, believe me sincerely yours